A

LETTER

FROM A

Country Divine

TO HIS

FRIEND in LONDON.

Concerning the

EDUCATION

OF THE

DISSENTERS,

IN THEIR

Private Academies

In several Parts of this Nation.

Humbly offer'd to the Consideration of the Grand Committee of PARLIAMENT for RELIGION, now Sitting.

LONDON: Printed for *R. Clavel* at the *Pecock* in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard, M DCC III.

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SIR,

I Am very ſenſible, ſhould the Contents of theſe following Papers, and the Author of 'em be publickly known; he would thereby under go the ſharpeſt Reſentments of a ſort of People who are none of the beſt Natured in the World. But if thereby, any ſmall Service may be done to the Church of *England*, of which I have been now, for ſome Years paſt, an unworthy Member; I ſhall think this more than ſufficient to ballance againſt the Diſreſpect, and Frowns I may meet with from my Relations and Acquaintance; All, or moſt of Whom, are unhappily Diſſenters from it.

There were two Reaſons more, over which I could not ſo eaſily prevail, and which had indeed, almoſt ſtopt my Deſign in committing theſe Obſervations to Writing: An Apprehenſion of being thought ungrateful to thoſe People, who had ſo much Obliged me; and from whom for ſome Years I have received my Bread, by diſcloſing what might poſſibly be not a little to their Prejudice: And beſides that, a fear leſt the Knowledge of ſome things here ſhould increaſe Animoſities, and thereby injure the Common Intereſt of the Church and Kingdom.

I have ſince ſatisfied my ſelf as to the firſt of theſe Objections, after an acknowledgment of the Kindneſs receiv'd, whate'er were the Principles and Motives thereof, profeſſing that I am not prejudiced againſt thoſe Perſons, whoſe Party I have left; but Honour ſome of 'em, and pitty others; without hating any; by conſidering that my new Obligation to that Communion, I have ſince Embraced, ſuperſedes and drowns the Old One; Eſpecially, when at the ſame time my diſcovering ſome of the Unwarrantable Practices of my Old Friends, may probably, ſome way or other, Conduce to their Conviction; and ſo to their Advantage and Amendment.

For the latter Objection; Theſe Papers are ſubmitted to the Scrutiny of thoſe, who know how to make a prudent Uſe of them, and ſuch, as I might well hope, by ſeeing the Reſolution of others to perpetuate a Schiſm, would be as reſolute and earneſt, on the Contrary, to Diſſolve or Heal it.

For theſe Ends, Sir, I ſhall relate whate'er Material I can recollect, after the Interval of ſome Years, concerning the Methods uſed by the Diſſenters, while I lived amongſt 'em, to propagate a Miniſtry in Oppoſition to that Eſtabliſh'd by Law, and the Publick Univerſities: What different Places, and kind of Colleges they had for the Education of Youth to this purpoſe; How theſe generally were maintained, and whence, with the Principles commonly Imbraced and Defended by thoſe who were of 'em, as well as moſt other Diſſenters: (To which I wiſh I cou'd yet ſay, I found not ſuch of them as I Converſe with, too conſtant.) And, Laſtly, what Arguments they generally made uſe of to diſſwade any they ſuſpected from embracing the Communion of the Church of *England*, or confirm others in their Diſſent from it: All of which ſhall be what I either was perſonally Witneſs to, and Engaged in; or in things leſs Material, am as Morally certain of by the Notoriety of the Fact, and uncontradicted Reports among us. For the Truth of whate'er I ſhall advance, Appealing (if Occaſion be) to the Conſciences of thoſe Concerned, and in the mean time, to my Own, and One who is greater than my Conſcience.

Being born of Diſſenting Parents, my Father dying early while I was at a Country School, and almoſt fit for the Univerſity, I was taken Notice of by that party, and without my Mothers Application or Charges, Sent by their Direction to *London*, in order to my being Entred at one of their private Academies, and ſo for their Miniſtry. Dr. *G.* who then lived ſomewhere near the Town, and had the Care of One of the moſt Conſiderable of thoſe Seminaries, had promiſed me my tuition, in Expectation of which I came to *London* on the 8*th* of *March An. Dom.* 1678. But at my Arrival, found him newly deceaſed. On which I was continued ſome time Longer at a Grammar School, from whence my Maſter would have had me gone to the Univerſity, having there provided a handſome Subſiſtence for me: But the forementioned party offering my Relations

lations greater advantages, they being alſo as has been Intimated, inclined the ſame way, I was diſpoſed of by them, at one Mr. *V.* of Stepney, who there kept a private Academy, having the ſum of 30*l. per ann.* Settled upon me while I was there, by way of an Exhibition, which was raiſed, with much more by Collections and Subſcriptions at a certain Diſſenting Congregation: There I remained for the ſpace of about two years, in which time my Tutor read to me a Courſe of Logic and Ethics, but being proſecuted by the neighbouring Juſtices, he broke up his houſe, and quitted that Employ; not long before which I had ten pounds *per Ann.* more allowed me, which, whence gathered I know not, but 'twas diſpoſed of by Dr. *O.* whom I waited upon a little after with my Thanks for that favour, and was received very civilly by him, encouraged in the proſecution of my Studies, and adviſed to have a particular regard to Critical Learning; and beſides, Obliged when Conveniency would permit, to get my ſelf entred at one of the Univerſities, without which none was to enjoy this Exhibition, which as I underſtood, ſeveral others had beſides my ſelf, to the Number of Ten (as near as I can remember at ſuch a diſtance) The Reaſon of the Drs. willingneſs to have us Entred at the Publick Univerſities, tho Educated at theſe private Ones, was as I Learned from him and others, becauſe they expected times would then ſpeedily alter, and look more favourably on them, when they doubted not to have all our time allowed, and Degrees granted in the Univerſities, as if we had been all the while actually reſident there. To which End, we were directed to go thither, and get Entred at ſome College or Hall, as if with an Intention to tarry, which we might do ſome time, if we could avoid Matriculation, or the Oaths therein required, as I have heard of ſome who did for ſeveral years, tho their Names do not Occur, and knew one who attempted the ſame at Oxford, after I went thither in Earneſt: But theſe Oaths, the Subſcription and other things required, we were by no means to take without forfeiting Our Exhibition; and accordingly I Loſt mine after I ſtaid in the College. And this ſame Notion of having all our Times and Degrees allowed of ſometime or other in the Univerſities, I afterwards found went thro all theſe our Petit Academy's, tho the Doctor was for making ſurer work, that we might with the more facility

attain it, when our Names ſhould be already found Entred.

But to proceed, when this Tutor had left off, I was recommended to another, one Mr. *M.* of Newington Green, formerly Fellow of Wadham College in *Oxford*, I think, for he was a great Acquaintanee of Bp. *W.* an Ingenious and univerſally Learned Man, but his Chiefeſt Excellency lay in Mathematicks, and eſpecially the Mechanic part thereof: There I continued near two years more with my former Exhibitions, and my Age Increaſing, began now to make ſome more Obſervations of things than while with my firſt Tutor, and the more I ſaw into what was about me, the more, I confeſs, I diſliked it, and began to doubt whether I was in the right; ſome of the moſt remarkable paſſages which remain in my memory are theſe following.

For my Tutor himſelf, I muſt and ever will do him that Juſtice to aſſert, that whenever the Young Men had any diſcourſe of the Government, and talk'd diſaffectedly or diſloyally, he never fail'd to rebuke and admoniſh 'em to the Contrary, telling us, I remember, Expreſly, more then once, That 'twas none of our buſineſs to Cenſure ſuch as God had placed above us. That ſmall miſcarriages ought not to be magnified, nor ſeverely reflected on, (Eſpecially by thoſe who had other buſineſs to mind) there never having been a Government ſo exact, or perfect, but had ſome of thoſe *Nævi* in it: And further, he particularly Cautioned us againſt Lampoons, or Scandalous Libels againſt Superiors, and that from the Immorality, as well as Danger of being the Authors or Diſperſers of them. Thus much I think my ſelf obliged in Truth, Gratitude and Honour, to witneſs of that (I really believe) Good, tho miſtaken man, who was I think the moſt Conſiderable of any in *England* in that way, for the number of his Pupils, and Politeneſs of his Learning. But tho I have acknowledged this of him, and in his, as far as poſſible, Juſt Vindication, yet that Character will reach but very few others. The Examples of almoſt a whole party prevailed much more on moſt of us, than his ſingle Precept. The Genius of a Faction was expreſt too lively in our Diſcourſe and Actions. We almoſt univerſally entertained a Mortal Averſion to the Epiſcopal Order, and very few but Equally abhorred Monarchy it ſelf, on either of which, notwithſtanding our Tutor's contrary

trary Advice and Commands, nothing ſo Satyrical or Reflecting cou'd, we thought, be Spoken. The KING-KILLING DOCTRINES were generally received and defended; Once particularly, I remember (tho Our Tutor not there) when but One perſon in all the Company oppoſed it, and had all the reſt about him for the ſame. The BARBAROUS MURTHER OF KING CHARLES IſT. OF BLESSED MEMORY, I have heard, till I Confeſs my Ears tingled. Since from the firſt time I read the Account on't I deteſted and abhorred it, avowedly and frequently Undicated; and thoſe who did it, very rarely Oppoſed: But the Memory of his MURTHERERS generally, by the party, treated at leaſt with the greateſt tenderneſs Imaginable. *The Eſtabliſhed Clergy, Liturgy, Diſcipline*, treated with the heighth of Diſgrace, and ridicule; once among the reſt, ſome of our Company went out at Midnight to a little Hill not far from *Newington-Town*, getting a ſpeaking Trumpet with 'em, in which after they had alarm'd and affrighted the Town, they Divulged ſome ſcandalous Stories of the then Miniſter of the place, the Reverend Mr. *S*: I was not there my ſelf, but 'twas at their return, reported by the Actors, and by the reſt received with Applauſe and Satisfaction. Nothing more Common then to hear the *Publick Prayers and Eſtabliſhed Liturgy* ridiculed, and the Words and Expreſſions therein, as well as the Perſons Officiating, made the conſtant ſubject of all the bad Jeſts could be Invented: And thoſe who had the beſt Talent this way, or for the bittereſt and moſt Scandalous and Ill-manner'd Sarcaſms in Proſe or Verſe, Careſt, Hugged, Encouraged, and Commended by the *Heads and Body of that party:* In ſome of which abuſes, as I muſt own I my ſelf had too Large a ſhare, ſo I have, and ſtill do heartily ask Gods, and the Churches pardon.

Here 'twas, by Common Diſcourſe and Correſpondence, that I learnt the Names and Places of the other *Seminaries* of this kind in ſeveral parts of England; this as before hinted was indeed the moſt Conſiderable, having annext a fine Garden, Bowling Green, Fiſh-pond, and within a Laboratory, and ſome not inconſiderable Rarities, with Air Pumps, Thermometers, and all ſorts of Mathematical Inſtruments. We had a Liſt of all thoſe who had been Entred of our Society, ſome hundreds it a mounted to, but I cannot be preciſe in the Number, with a Diſtinction of the Faculties, and Employments of

every One, whether Law, Divinity, Phiſick, or what Elſe; Among the reſt I remember the Names of ſeveral Perſons of Quality, Sir *C. M.* a Kinſman of Sir *I. M*'s, as I am Informed, ſent thither by his Order: Sir *Charles P.* afterwards killed at *Fiſh-Street-Hill*, not a few Knights and Baronets Sons, and (at the former place) One Lords Son who were ſent hither to avoid the Debaucheries of the Univerſities, tho ſome of them (particularly Sir *W. W. H. W.* and others) made themſelves ſufficiently remarkable while they were with us. For Our Tutors having no power, cou'd uſe but little Diſcipline, we having beſides, for what order we had, a ſort of Democratical Government among us, any one having power to propoſe a Law, and all Laws carryed by the Balat, as the greater Number Determined, and pains and pecuniary Mulcts accordingly inflicted, as it ſeemed beſt to our own Diſcretion; We had Two Houſes at *Newington*, our Number 40. or 50. o'er or under.

Beſides this, we had two Other Nurſeries of the ſame Nature in or about *London*; Mr. *D.* who might have about Twenty or Thirty, if not upwards; he lived at *Iſlington*, and afterwards removed ſome whither on the other Side of the Water.

Mr. *R.* he was Succeſſor to Dr. *G.* who had been his Tutor, and left either ten or twenty Exhibitions, I am not certain which, of Ten Pound *Per Ann.* each to ſo many Young Scholars deſigned for Miniſters, moſt or all Independants; the Three former Presbyterians.

This Mr. *R.* lived, when I firſt knew his People, at *Hackney*, after that removed with his Pupils to *London*, and lodged in *Bowſe*'s Houſe, who was Executed in *Weſt*'s, *&c.* Plot for high Treaſon, whither his Pupils uſed to come daily; and he read to 'em, as well as afterwards in other parts of the Town. Since my return from *Oxford*, I hear he lived in *Jewen-Street*, and now, or very lately, in Rope-Maker's Alley in *Moor-fields*.

There was another in *Suffolk*, near *Newmarket*, whoſe Name I forgot, but think either Mr. *G.* or Mr. *C.* both which Perſons I know, were this way employed.

One Mr. *W.* too, I have heard named on the ſame Occaſion, Dr. *B.* ſome where in the Weſt of *England*, a Learned Man, he is repreſented among us; He writ ſomething or other

of

of the Being of God, I think 'twas for which we much valued him: Another near *Salisbury*; and another at *Taunton Dean* in *Sommerſet-ſhire*, both whoſe Names I have loſt, tho' the Pupils of the laſt have been numerous.

One Mr. *S.* at *Lyme Regis Dorſetſhire*: now at *Biſhop's-Hall*, near *Bednalgreen*, 1693, Mr. *I.* now near *Sheffeild*, 1698: And I believe ſeveral Others, if I could remember 'em: But moſt of the Lads maintained in all thoſe places, deſigned for Miniſters; which were every where the far greater Number, and upon the Matter all, (except thoſe Gentlemen with us) their Exhibitions failing when the Diſſenters were ſo ſeverely proſecuted, that they could not meet in ſuch frequent Numbers as they were wont, where they uſed to make thoſe Collections which maintain'd 'em, were forced either Home to their Parents, and Friends, e'er they finiſhed their Studies, or ſent very callow abroad to ſome Gentleman's Houſe, Chaplains or Tutors, Mr. *D*'s. School, boaſting they could cram up a Miniſter in Two Years; or elſe betaking themſelves to ſome other Employments.

Ours indeed, ſtood one of the longeſt in *England*, the Reaſon whereof I conceive to be this: We having ſeveral Gentlemen of Eſtates who paid well; Our Tutor deſigning what he thought the Glory of God more than his own private Profit, propoſed no more, but juſt to ſave himſelf harmleſs. And if therefore he had little for ſome, valued it not, ſo 'twas barely made up by others, whence we had ſtill new Miniſters ſent out, and ordained by the Presbyters, of which ſort there are a pretty conſiderable Number in all parts of *England*.

I have almoſt, in the Crowd, forgot one thing very remarkable: 'Tis their *Salvo* for their Oath in the Univerſity, when they engage not to take Pupils, read Lectures, *&c.* I have ſeen a Manuſcript handed about amongſt us in Explication of this Oath, which thoſe in this Imployment have been often Accuſed for the Breach of. The main thing I remember, they inſiſt on, are thoſe Words wherein they plead the force of the Oath lies; that they are not to Read Lectures, *&c. Tanquam in Academia*, That is (ſay they) in ſuch manner as is done in the Univerſity, Taking and Giving Degrees in Oppoſition thereunto, as was once attempt-

ed for ſome Years at *Stanford*; mentioned in the Oath, which they plead is a Direction or Key to the Senſe thereof.

But tho' we had long weathered it out, the Shock at length came ſo fiercely; our Tutor could not ſtand it: He had once before been Excommunicated, and a *Capias* iſſued out againſt him, on which he was taken, but while in Cuſtody of an Officer, before he was actually Committed to Priſon, the Officer in whoſe Houſe he lay, accidently died during his ſtay there, on which there being none to detain him, he returned home again; attributing the Thing, as is uſual with that ſort of People, to a particular *Providence*; He was now in danger of a Second *Capias*, on which he uſed the Mediation of my Lady *R.* to get ſome reſpite, and ſent his Siſter ſeveral times to *London-Houſe* on the ſame Errand: My Lord of *L.* as we were told, promiſed him all Reaſonable Favour, if he'd leave that place, and Employment, which he cou'd not ſuffer him in, ſo much to the Detriment and prejudice of the Eſtabliſhed Church, and affront to the Laws and Univerſities; on which he abſconded ſome time at a Friend's, abſenting himſelf from us, and leaving the *Senior* Pupils to inſtruct the *Junior*.

'Twas in this Juncture of time, my Tutor being remov'd, for whom I had ſo great a Reſpect and Veneration as hardly to dare doubt what he affirmed, that I began to inquire more cloſely than I had formerly done, into the Grounds of thoſe Differences for which I ſaw our People ſuffer ſo much, and ſo ſeverely, and whether I was ſufficiently ſatisfied in the Truth and Import of thoſe Principles I had been Educated in, to endure the ſame which they did, if it ſhould happen to be my Lot.

I enquired as well as I could into their Arguments for dividing from an eſtabliſhed Church, ſome of which Appeared weak and others worſe: One of 'em particularly did not at all like me, it being ſo ill-natured a one, tho very often urged by them: You ſay obey, becauſe commanded, we ſay, becauſe 'tis commanded we will not obey, which to me appeared an odd ſort of a Conſcience: For I found the Churches of all Nations had different Cuſtoms, which tho' not Eſſential to Salvation were ſo to Communion; That they themſelves had ſuch Conſtitutions in their private Church Government,

vernment, nor methought was there any Reaſon why the whole Nation ſhould not leave as much Power as a ſmaller Body; I then looked a little farther into Church Hiſtory, as much as lay within my reach, and found, to my ſurpriſe Biſhops in all Ages and Places all the World over, though perhaps not altogether conſtituted in the ſame manner that Ours are, yet viſibly differing from Presbyters whether *Gradu* or *Ordine* it did not then appear of ſo much Concern, ſince they denyed both; I earneſtly implored the Divine Direction in a Buſineſs of ſo weighty a Concern, and on which ſo much of my whole Life depended: I examined things over and over, as calmly and unpaſſionately as poſſible; and the further I look't, ſtill the more the Miſt cleared up, and things appeared in another ſort of a Light than I had ſeen 'em all my Life before. And ſo far were the Sufferings of that People at that time, from Influencing my Reſolution to leave 'em, that I profeſs 'twas a thing which retarded me the moſt of any: The Ungeneroſity of quitting 'em in their Meaner Fortunes, when I had been a Sharer in their better, I knew not how to get over; Tho' I at laſt perceived this was more a Pique of Honour than any ſolid Reaſon, and not weighty enough to ſtand againſt a certain Duty. Theſe I remember, were ſome of the uppermoſt of my Thoughts about that time, and on the whole, I began to have ſome Inclinations to the Univerſity, if I knew how to get thither, or live there when I came: Not being acquainted, to my Knowledge, with one Soul of the Church of *England*, at leaſt with none of any Figure or Intereſt, to whom I might addreſs for Aſſiſtance, or Advice.

I was now offered Imployment among the Diſſenters (having been with 'em near four Years) either in a *Gentleman's Houſe, or Chaplain to an Eaſt India Ship*, but my Inclinations were more for *Oxford*, where I might have, I thought Opportunity, more fully to ſtudy the point, which I was now almoſt reſolved in: Some rubs however there ſtill lay in my way thither, which our People generally urged to prevent us from ſuch Intentions. That the *Univerſities were Debauched ſo ſcandalouſly*, there was no breathing for a Sober Man in them, repreſenting them as meer *Sodom and Gomorrha*'s. The Second, That the *Church of England* was ſo far from Encou-

raging Diſſenters to cloſe with their Communion, that thoſe who did ſo, were generally frown'd upon, and ſuſpected all their Lives, and never ever Loved or Truſted. The Third, That the Nation was ſo unanimouſly againſt 'em, that the *Biſhops and Hierarch* would certainly have a ſpeedy Fall, and even Rats and Mice are wiſe enough to quit a Tumbling Houſe, not run into it.

For the laſt of theſe Reaſons, I muſt confeſs, I had been ſo long among thoſe ſort of People, who were for *Root and Branch-work with Epiſcopacy*, and converſed with no other, that I began indeed to think they were all *England*; for which Reaſons, ſo high and rampant ſtill were the Expectation of the Party, how low ſoever their Fortunes, I was poſſeſſed with an intire belief, tho' God be praiſed a falſe as well as a groundleſs one, that what they ſaid was true; and that *Epiſcopacy* would not ſtand long, and this I can appeal to God, was my real Opinion, even when I went to *Oxford*, and ſome time after I had been there. But was notwithſtanding ſo far from diſcouraging me from going, that I therefore went the rather; this alſo ſerving to ballance againſt what might ſeem baſe in leaving the Diſſenters; I went accordingly, and found, I thank God, I was miſtaken, and ſo were thoſe that led me into that Error: I am ſorry I muſt add, I doubt not but they are ſtill ſo, for ſome of the ſelf ſame Perſons to my own Knowledge continue in the ſame fond Fancy they were then, in expecting the Ruin of what every Good Man hopes and prays may ſtand firm as long as the Sun and Moon endures.

Their Second Argument from the unkindneſs of the Church, to thoſe who forſook the Camps of their Enemy, look'd ſo unlikely, that whatever may have happened ſince, I was reſolved I wou'd not then believe it, attributing want of Encouragement in thoſe Caſes, either to want of Merit, or Acquaintance, or Patience, or altogether; and every Day confirms me more in the Reaſonableneſs of my Apprehenſion on that particular.

For their other Argument, Debauchery, I reſolved too, not to believe a word of that till I ſaw it, and found the truth with my own Eyes, for which now a very happy Opportunity offer'd: I was called upon by the Truſtees of the Ten Pound

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Exhibitions (Dr. *O.* himself was now dead) to delay no longer but Enter at the University with all Speed, or Else no more payment to be made. To which End I went down, Staid there some time, found there many Sober and Religious Men, as well as some Rakehells, which we our Selves did not want: Discoursed several points in which I yet did a little hesitate, and received Satisfaction in them: But not being willing to be Overhasty in such a Concern, returned to *London* to consider a little longer, and a little after my return had 20 *l.* given me, part of a Considerable Sum left by some Dissenter, whose Name I forget, to be distributed among Ministers; He was, I believe, an Independent, for Mr. *Gr.* obtained it for me, and Mr. *M.*— paid it me; with this I discharged what debts I had Contracted as far as I could, paying it all away, and then resolving for *Oxford*, as soon as possible, whither accordingly I went, In the Name of God, and entred there the of *August*, in the Year 1683 a Servitor of *E.* College, to which place, some few Months after, several Letters having first passed between us, followed me a Young Gentleman, one of my Fellow Pupils, at my first Tutors, who is now Fellow of that College, and in Priests Orders: Here I tarry'd, tho I met with some Hardships I had before been unacquainted with, till I was standing sufficient, and then took my Batchellours Degree, and not being able to subsist there afterwards, came to *London*, during the time of my Lord Bishop of *London*'s Suspension by the high Commission, and was Initiated in Deacon's Orders by my Lord Bishop of *R.* at his Palace at *B. Aug. 7th* 1688; and on the 24*th* of *February* following, in St. *Andrew*'s Church *Holborn*, was Ordained by the Lord Bishop of *L.* a Priest of the Church of *England*; In whose Communion as I have lived now Comfortably and Happily these six Years past; so I hope to continue in it all my Life, and by the Grace of God to die in the same.

POSTSCRIPT.

ABout a Twelve Month after, I left *Oxford*, Mr. *M.* left *Newington*, and *England* too, Embarking for *New-England*, where he lives ſtill, or lately did ſo. One thing deſerves not to be forgotten, That when the Right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of *L.* under Suſpenſion by the illegal Court of High Commiſſion, ſeveral of Mr. *M*'s Friends and Pupils were heard to ſay, and, ſome by my ſelf, That it was a juſt Judgment of God upon him, for having been formerly ſo Cruel and Unkind to that Good Man.

My Acquaintance with the Diſſenters being now almoſt worn out, I have no good Account where, or how many Schools they have at Preſent. But this I hear, That Mr. *G.* Son to Dr. *T. G.* had about a Year ſince, opened one of 'em at a place beyond *Hampſted*, or *Highgate*, the name of which I do not remember, I think it is *Harrow on the Hill*.

As for what you deſire concerning the Books we generally uſed to read, you may eaſily believe that the ſpace of almoſt 20 Years blots many things out of our Minds, but what little Scatterings remain I'll freely give you: We had ſeveral of us, *Lucius Junius Brutus* among us, *Milton*'s Apology was in *Deliciis* with moſt of us, I am apt to believe poor *W. J.* formed his Latin Stile very much by reading him, for he had a very good one. We had alſo *Eiconoclaſtes*, ſome of the Lads had *Meurſii Elegantia*, *Alayſia Sigaa Terentia*, and *Octavia*, and the moſt lewd abominable Books that ever blaſted Chriſtian Eye: Theſe you'll believe our Tutors knew not of, nor did they direct us to the former. All the Reports ſince ſpread about the King's Book were then common among us, and Biſhop *Gauden*'s Son was quoted as their Author; we all eſteemed very meanly of the Father, and I knew none that read them among the Diſſenters beſides Mr. *Clarkſon*, who

who was the most Charitable, and best Tempered Independent that ever I met with. *Ames's Medulla*, and *Bellarminus Enervatus*, the *Altare Damascenum*, and such like were what we much traded in, and were recommended to us, together with *Baxter's* Books of Controversies and Devotion. Tho' I have heard he was inclined to the Universities, and did not much approve our private Academies, and has been blamed for it amongst us; *Charnock* was held in great esteem.

I am, Good Sir,

Your most Obliged Friend,

And very Humble Servant.

K. *Ch.* Ist *His Divine Meditation.* p. 232.

The Religion established in the Church of *England* I have tried, and after much Search, and many Disputes, I have concluded it to be the best in the World.

Archbishop Tillotson his 3*d* Vol. *of Sermons*, p. 403.

We have the best Religion in the World, the very same which the Son of God revealed; which the Apostles planted and confirmed by Miracles, and which the Noble Army of Martyrs sealed with their Blood.

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med for it amongſt us; Character was held in great eſteem.

I am, Good Sir,

Your moſt Obliged Friend,

And very Humble Servant.

K. Ch. II. His Divine Meditation, p. 239.

The Religion eſtabliſhed in the Church of England I have tried, and after much Search, and many Diſputes, I have concluded it to be the beſt in the World.

Bishop Tillotſon his 3d Vol. of Sermons, P. 463.

We have the beſt Religion in the World, the very ſame which the Son of God revealed; which the Apoſtles planted and confirmed by Miracles, and which the Noble Army of Martyrs ſealed with their Blood.